GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1444
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
WHO GUIDELINES
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that poorly managed tuberculosis programmes are leading to the spread of multi-drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis bacillus all over the World which entrails the threat of the disease becoming incurable;

(b) if so, whether the WHO has issued guidelines in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of TB awareness programmes being mooted in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Directly Observed Treatment-Short Course (DOTS) strategy has been recommended by WHO for control of TB and prevention of multi-drug-resistance. The objective of the strategy is to achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. This strategy has following components.

- Political commitment.
- Diagnosis by sputum microscopy.
- Uninterrupted supply of anti-TB drugs.
- Directly observed treatment and
- Accountability through a monitoring and reporting system.

This strategy has been incorporated in the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which has already covered about 500 million population of the country.

(d) To create awareness about TB Programme, the following steps are being taken:

- Facts about TB and DO,s and DOW'T,s are published in the leading National Newspapers from time to time. Similarly, State/District TB Societies also publish the same in the regional and local newspapers.
- Provision for contractual appointment of full time IEC Consultant at Central level and IEC Officers at State level has been made.
- Funds are provided to State/District TB Societies for undertaking IEC activities for mass awareness.
- Districts have been advised to ensure wall paintings in Microscopy and DOT Centres and at prominent places specially in areas with large population, Inauguration of start of services delivery in a big manner at every MC and in the district by inviting public representatives and opinion leaders; holding of inter-personal meetings specially in slum areas and utilizing services of cured patients etc.
- Services of a mass media agency are being hired at the Central level to plan and execute IEC activities especially through media.